

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. **(Currently Amended)** A fire protective coat having a collar defining a right front portion and a left front portion and mounting a first attachment means on the right front portion and a second attachment means on the left front portion, said fire protective coat including a throat protector for protecting a throat area of a person wearing the coat, said throat protector including an elongated tab defining a front surface and a rear surface, and including third, fourth and fifth attachment means on said rear surface, said third attachment means being detachably interengageable with said first attachment means, said fourth attachment means being detachably interengageable with said second attachment means, and said fifth attachment means being detachably interengageable with said ~~third~~ fourth attachment means, and a flexible connector means ~~extending between~~ fixedly connected at a first end to said elongated tab and at a second end to said collar so that when said first and third attachment means and said second and fourth attachment means are disengaged, said elongated tab can freely hang downward from the collar, or said fourth and fifth attachment means can be interengaged to maintain said elongated tab in a folded state.

2. **(Original)** A fire protective coat according to claim 1, wherein said elongated tab defines a right side edge, a left side edge, a top edge and a bottom edge, and wherein said bottom edge extends between said right and left side edges along a convex curve.

3. **(Original)** A fire protective coat according to claim 2, wherein said top edge of said elongated tab extends between said right and left side edges along a concave curve.

4. **(Original)** A fire protective coat according to claim 1, wherein said first, second, third, fourth and fifth attachment means are formed of patches of hook or loop fasteners.

5. **(Original)** A fire protective coat according to claim 4, wherein said first and second attachment means are patches of loop fasteners, said third and fifth attachment means are patches of hook fasteners, and said fourth attachment means is a patch of loop fasteners.

6. **(Original)** A fire protective coat according to claim 1, wherein said third attachment means is located near said right side edge, said fifth attachment means is located near said left side edge, and said fourth attachment means is located below said third attachment means.

7. **(Original)** A fire protective coat according to claim 1, including a right front coat panel and a left front coat panel, wherein the flexible connector strip is attached to a left front collar portion above said left front coat panel, and wherein said rear surface of said elongated strip can face said left front coat panel when freely hanging downwardly from said collar.

8. **(Original)** A fire protective coat according to claim 1, wherein said first and second attachment means are connected to an outer surface of said collar when said collar is in a raised positioning and are covered by said collar when said collar is folded down to a lowered positioning.

9. **(Currently Amended)** A fire protective coat according to claim 1, wherein said elongated tab is made of a fire- and heat-resistant fabric material.

10. **(Currently Amended)** A fire protective coat according to claim 1, wherein said flexible connector means is made of a fire- and heat-resistant fabric material.

11. **(New)** A fire protective coat according to claim 1, wherein said first end of said flexible connector is stitched to said elongated tab.

12. **(New)** A fire protective coat according to claim 1, wherein said second end of said flexible connector is stitched to said collar.